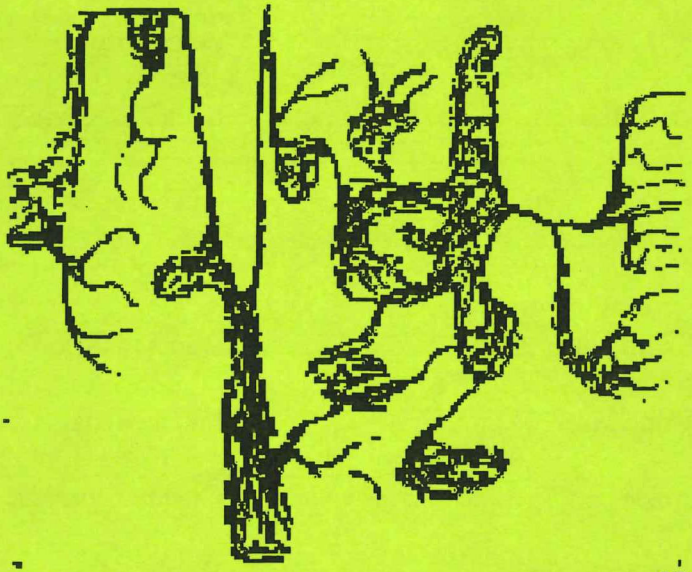
CD 2001--47

University of Toronto
Faculty of Music

Concert of
Electroacoustic Music



Sunday, March 18, 2001

PROGRAMME

L'oiseau chanteur (1963) — Francois Bayle

Synchronisms No. 5 (1974) — Mario Davidovsky

Jamie Drake, Michael Gambacurta, Jyri Kurri,
Brian Lahaie, Danny Tones. percussion
Dennis Patrick, conductor

Possible Spaces no.6 (2001) — Gustav Ciamaga

Two electronic sketches (1984) — Otto Joachim

Axiom (2001) — Peter Olsen

Harmonices Vitae — Bruno Degazio

INTERMISSION

...delayed somewhat (2001) — Dennis Patrick

Mycenae-Alpha (1978) — Iannis Xenakis

Possible Spaces no.5 (2000) — Gustav Ciamaga

Three Songs by Brahms — Hugh Orr

L'oiseau chanteur (1963) **Francois Bayle**
From 1966 to 1997, Bayle was the director of the "groupe de Recherches Musicales of the French Radio. As Pierre Schaeffer's successor, Bayle continued to develop the techniques and aesthetics of "musique concrete" .

Synchronisms No. 5 (1974) **Mario Davidovsky**
Born in Mendanos, Argentina (1934), Mario Davidovsky first came to America at the suggestion of Aaron Copland to study at Tanglewood. He settled in New York City in 1960 and began a close association with the Columbia Princeton Electronic Music Center. He is perhaps most widely recognized for his series of Synchronisms for instrument(s) and tape, and received a Pulitzer Prize in 1971.

Possible Spaces no.5 (2000)
Possible Spaces no.6 (2001) **Gustav Ciamaga**
A continuing series of electroacoustic pieces, each exploring a singular mood and/or compositional strategy.

Two electronic sketches (1984) **Otto Joachim**
After leaving Germany in 1934, Otto Joachim (1910) came to Canada from China in 1949. He has had premieres at the Champs Élysées, Lincoln Center, etc. with the Boston, Chicago, Toronto, and Montreal Symphony Orchestras. His "Katimavik", written for EXPO '67, is said to be the first Canadian electronic 4 channel composition. His many honours include the Grand Prix Paul Gilson; Grand Prix Calixa Lavalée; Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Québec; and a honourary doctorate from Concordia University.Today's performances are from *7 electronic Sketches* originally in 4 channels produced in his private studio.

Axiom (2001) **Peter Olsen**
Peter Olsen is in the final year of a Bachelor of Music degree in Composition at the Faculty of Music. His principal teachers have included Dennis Patrick, Paul Pedersen, and Christos Hatzis. Axiom was composed using elements from a recorded performance of a Chopin Etude.

Harmonices Vitae **Bruno Degazio**

This music was produced algorithmically by Harmonices Vitae, a modern digital implementation of the ancient concept of the Music of the Spheres. It is a computer software system designed by the composer, which creates music corresponding to the astrological events of a person's life. The time scale is altered so that one minute of music corresponds to one year in the life of the individual. Every person therefore has his or her own music, which corresponds to the unique astrological pattern of their life. Through the course of a person's life, the planets as they move come into connection with planets in the person's birthchart. These times of connection are known as transits. In Harmonices Vitae, transits generate musical activity - a fragment of melody, a chord, or a drum hit. The strength of the transit controls pitch, loudness and general musical energy. The music becomes an audible record of the intensity of the transits affecting the person. The instruments that are playing tell you which planets in the birthchart are being activated. The motions of the progressed Sun and Moon determine the overall musical factors of key, harmony and rhythmic style.

Bruno Degazio's recent work includes the special effects sound design for the Oscar nominated documentary film, *The Fires of Kuwait* and music for the all-digital, six-channel sound tracks of the IMAX films *Titanica* and *Flight of the Aquanaut*. His concert works for traditional, electronic and mixed media have been performed throughout North America and Europe. As a researcher in the field of algorithmic composition, he has presented papers and musical works at international conferences.

...delayed somewhat (2001) **Dennis Patrick**

Dennis Patrick is a member of the Theory and Composition Division of the Faculty of Music and is the Director of the Electroacoustic Music Studio. In addition to teaching core theory courses, his interests include musical acoustics, music technology, and computer applications in music. He has composed music for several award winning CBC radio dramas by Canadian authors, Timothy Findley and Michael Ondaatje.

Mycenae-Alpha (1978) **Iannis Xenakis**

Iannis Xenakis (1922-2001) born in Romania to a wealthy Greek family, moved to Greece in 1932 and subsequently fought with the Greek resistance during World War Two, losing an eye in battle. Expelled from Greece in 1947, Xenakis moved to Paris where he studied with modernist architect Le Corbusier. Xenakis has used both Greek folk elements and twelve-tone technique in his music. He has also developed a "stochastic" technique of composition, based on the mathematical probability of the recurrence of notes and rhythms. His works include *Métastasis* (1955) for orchestra, *Pithoprakta* (1957) for strings, and *Achorripsis* (1958) for 21 instruments. In 1958, Xenakis collaborated with Edgar Varèse on the *Poème Electronique.* He was a founder of the Centre d'Etudes Mathématiques et Automatiques in Paris and of the Center for Mathematical and Automated Music at Indiana Univ. Xenakis has written several treatises explaining his theories.
In 1976 Xenakis developed a drawing board attached to a computer to convert images into sound. **Mycenae-Alpha** was composed on the UPIC graphic computer system.

Three Songs by Brahms **Hugh Orr**

Recorder teacher and performer Hugh Orr has created electroacoustic performances of Brahms songs using a Yamaha breath controller, VL70 physical modeling synthesizer, and a P80 keyboard.